

# Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Survey 2005

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## **Abstract**

The number of pheasants seen during the 19-21 of April survey period by rural mail carriers per 100 miles driven was 0.82. This is a 2% increase from 0.81 observed in 2004. The number of pheasant seen per observer was unchanged from 2004 levels, at 1.2.

## **Methods**

Survey forms were mailed in early April to postmasters in 32 counties across Wisconsin's pheasant range. Postmasters were asked to distribute the forms to their rural mail carriers. Carriers were instructed to record their route number, distance driven, and the number and sex of pheasants seen along their route on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the third full week of April. Data from the returned surveys were entered into the DNR UNIX production server and analyzed using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

In an effort to expand coverage of the Rural Mail Carrier Survey, Grant county was added in 1995 to the list of counties that were surveyed. None of the totals for Grant county will be used in the statewide totals so a long term trend can be observed.

## **Results**

Rural mail carrier participation decreased by 6% in 2005. Six hundred and forty-one respondents saw 789 pheasants during the April 19, 20, and 21 survey period. This is a 3.7% decrease from the number of pheasants seen in 2004. During the survey period the weather was partly cloudy to cloudy with above average temperatures, and little rain; probably above average survey conditions. The counties with the highest number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven were Lafayette (8.90), Iowa (4.07), Barron (1.93) and Fond Du Lac (1.13) (Table 1, Fig. 2).

The statewide average number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven increased to 0.82 in 2005, a 2% increase from 2004. The number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven is higher than the long-term mean of 0.60 (Figure 1). The number of pheasants seen per observer was unchanged from the 2004 ratio of 1.2.

**Table 1. Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Sightings 2003-2005.**

County	<u>Pheasants Sighted</u>			<u>Sightings/100 miles Driven</u>		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Barron	15	38	33	1.16	2.23	1.93
Brown	9	11	17	0.18	0.17	0.38
Calumet	12	2	4	0.52	0.08	0.19
Columbia	12	11	21	0.30	0.30	0.57
Dane	36	51	57	0.44	0.67	0.82
Dodge	17	30	20	0.42	0.77	0.71
Door	11	9	10	0.59	0.42	0.49
Dunn	5	6	26	0.42	0.51	1.01
Fond Du Lac	41	34	51	1.03	0.79	1.13
Grant <sup>1</sup>	86	135	106	1.19	1.79	1.67
Green	21	26	2	0.75	1.22	0.11
Green Lake	7	24	7	0.36	1.16	0.33
Iowa	52	99	133	1.62	4.14	4.07
Jefferson	90	31	33	2.12	0.96	0.88
Kenosha	9	0	13	0.78	0.00	0.85
Kewaunee	5	15	2	0.23	0.65	0.07
Lafayette	11	85	130	0.76	4.79	8.90
Manitowoc	3	10	11	0.10	0.31	0.34
Oconto	8	9	6	0.35	0.38	0.25
Outagamie	34	34	7	0.78	0.89	0.20
Ozaukee	6	8	17	0.45	0.81	1.01
Pierce	23	49	28	0.74	1.60	1.06
Polk	19	37	33	0.65	1.03	0.88
Racine	3	3	6	0.14	0.11	0.22
Rock	21	23	21	0.84	0.49	0.57
St. Croix	45	49	44	0.94	0.76	0.92
Shawano	15	7	4	0.66	0.29	0.21
Sheboygan	16	28	17	0.44	0.77	0.51
Walworth	9	9	5	0.15	0.21	0.12
Washington	27	23	14	0.91	0.69	0.39
Waukesha	27	15	13	0.58	0.31	0.28
Winnebago	4	41	4	0.20	1.25	0.20
Unknown	41	0	0	5.34	0.00	0.00
Total	660	819	789	0.68	0.81	0.82

<sup>1</sup>Not included in totals

